

AMENDED IN SENATE SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 65

Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin

April 22, 2009

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 65—Relative to higher education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 65, as amended, Ruskin. Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education.

This measure would establish the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for Higher Education. The measure would provide that the joint committee would consist of a number of Assembly Members and Senators to be determined by the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate Committee on Rules. The committee would be established to review the Master Plan for Higher Education and create a framework to ensure that higher education continues to thrive, among other things. *The measure would authorize the Assembly Committee on Rules to make money available to the joint committee from the Assembly Operating Fund.*

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Education is the most important function of the
- 2 State of California and is essential to the cultural, political, and
- 3 economic health of the state and the nation; and

1 WHEREAS, California's population is rich in ethnic and cultural
2 diversity, which is a resource that should continually be developed
3 to ensure the ongoing success of the state and its residents; and

4 WHEREAS, California has developed an extraordinary higher
5 educational system with an unprecedented investment of public
6 and private moneys and the energy and commitment of countless
7 individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, In 1960, California established a master plan for
9 the development, expansion, and integration of the facilities,
10 curriculum, and standards of higher education in junior colleges,
11 the California State University system, the University of California
12 system, and other institutions of higher education in the state to
13 meet the needs of the state during the 10 years following the master
14 plan's establishment; and

15 WHEREAS, The 1960 Master Plan for Higher Education was
16 a precedent-setting document that envisioned a place for every
17 Californian, regardless of background or income, and the 2009–10
18 Master Plan review effort seeks to continue the wisdom and
19 opportunity included by the original framers; and

20 WHEREAS, The drafters of the 1960 Master Plan for Higher
21 Education foresaw a changing California and a postsecondary
22 education system that would adapt to, meet, and overcome the
23 demands inherent with change; and

24 WHEREAS, Since the adoption of the 1960 Master Plan for
25 Higher Education, the master plan has been reviewed periodically
26 by the Commission for the Review of the Master Plan for Higher
27 Education, the Coordinating Council for Higher Education, the
28 Joint Committee for Review of the Master Plan in Higher
29 Education, and the California Postsecondary Education
30 Commission; and

31 WHEREAS, California is at a crossroad as our economy
32 demands a highly skilled workforce, yet a significant number of
33 our next generation are not being prepared to meet our economic
34 demands; and

35 WHEREAS, The recent economic downturn has taken a toll on
36 the state's fiscal support for public higher education; however, the
37 economy will revive, and this Master Plan review can set a
38 framework for funding priorities when funds become available to
39 restore and increase the state's support for its colleges and

1 universities and invest in preparing its future workforce; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
5 hereby establishes the Joint Committee on the Master Plan for
6 Higher Education for the purposes of reviewing the Master Plan
7 for Higher Education and creating a framework to ensure that our
8 higher education system continues to thrive and contribute to a
9 healthy and prosperous future for California and its students; and
10 be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the joint committee shall consist of as many
12 members of the Assembly, including one co-chair, as are appointed
13 to the committee by the Speaker of the Assembly, and as many
14 members of the Senate, including one co-chair, as are appointed
15 to the committee by the Senate Committee on Rules, provided that
16 the members appointed from each house shall be appointed in
17 equal number; and be it further

18 *Resolved*, That the joint committee and its members shall have
19 and exercise all of the rights, duties, and powers conferred upon
20 investigating committees and their members by the Joint Rules of
21 the Senate and the Assembly as they are adopted and amended
22 from time to time, which provisions are incorporated herein and
23 made applicable to this committee and its members; and be it
24 further

25 *RESOLVED*, *That the Assembly Committee on Rules may make*
26 *money available from the Assembly Operating Fund, as it deems*
27 *necessary, for the expenses of the joint committee and its members.*
28 *Any expenditure of money shall be made in compliance with*
29 *policies set forth by the Assembly Committee on Rules, and shall*
30 *be subject to the approval of the Assembly Committee on Rules;*
31 *and be it further*

32 *Resolved*, That the joint committee is authorized to act until
33 November 30, 2010, at which time the committee's existence shall
34 terminate; and be it further

35 *Resolved*, That the joint committee shall submit a report at the
36 end of the legislative session to the Legislature on its activities;
37 and be it further

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly shall transmit
- 2 copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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